



Ferndown Middle Newsletter

March 2017

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Key Dates



Term Dates are available on the school website

Thursday 23rd March – Year 8 Arson Day

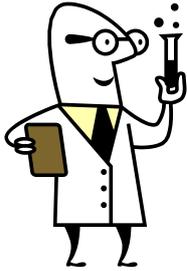
Friday 24th March – Red Nose Day – Mufti Day

Monday 3rd April – School Nurse Drop-In (12.20 – 1.20) see leaflet

Wednesday 5th April – Ferndown's Got Talent Show

Friday 7th April – end of term 2pm finish

Science News



Ferndown Middle School was once again lucky enough to gain a place for the 'I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here' event run by Gallomanor. This is an online event where pupils get to meet and interact with real scientists in the form of an X factor-style competition between the scientists. This time the scientists all specialised in animal behaviour. The pupils chatted to the scientists during the live chat session, where they asked questions about the scientist's life and their work. The students then voted for the best scientist. The pupils fully engaged with this experience and asked some interesting questions. They were particularly thrilled when a scientist congratulated them on their great questions.

B Kiernan, Science Co-ordinator

Food News



Food Technology:

Year 5 have been making excellent progress this term, developing their grating and cutting skills. Students have successfully produced fruit salad, couscous salad, apple crumble and scones. Due to the changes in the national curriculum and the government reworking the healthy eating plate, students in **Year 6** have started to produce healthy balanced meals, based on carbohydrates and vegetables. They have learnt to cook a variety of staple foods from around the world, and have produced some outcomes that are beyond their years. Well done year 6! **Year 7** have been focusing on nutrition and cutting refined sugar out of their diets. They have understood the importance of a diet that balances all the food groups in the correct proportions. They have made savoury dishes for the whole family from scratch and even made savoury baked products such as seasonal vegetable muffins and sweet potato brownies. They are certainly beginning to understand that what you eat affects your health and well-being. Parents have commented that their children have started to try new and healthy foods without complaining! This is all a big step in the right direction! **Year 8** have been focusing on the function of eggs and their uses in savoury dishes. They have also modified many family meals and developed higher level skills ready for upper school. The students' quiches, mac and cheese and apple pies have all proved a hit. We hope that your children are now becoming more confident to cook for the whole family and understand how to eat a healthy balanced diet.

Let's Get Cooking club:

10 more enthusiastic students have had the opportunity to cook exciting recipes, provided by Tesco, through the Let's Get Cooking team. This is part of the children's food trust and is helping to deal with childhood obesity and raise awareness of healthy eating and well-being. Students learn the skills to cook from scratch and are provided with a huge range of seasonal dishes, which widen their understanding of world food. The students have produced vegetable samosas, baked apples, flavoured pop-corn, mini pancakes and homemade custard. Friendships have been made and a lot of tasty food eaten during Tuesday lunchtimes.

Great Ferndown Bake Off:

Congratulations to the students who have been selected to bake in the Great Ferndown Bake off next term. Students had to submit a design for a Giant Easter biscuit, which should be decorated using royal icing.



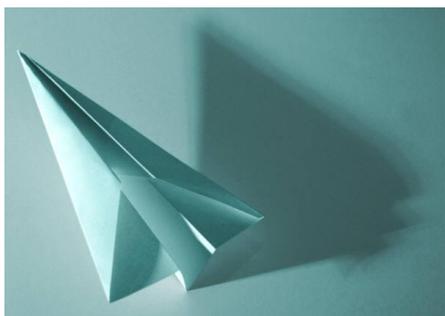


The designs were wonderful and showed the students' knowledge of baking. Emma Wilson, Isolda Wilson, Emily Ackroyd, Kacey-Jane Martin, Elina Parsons-Lowey and Charlotte Feltham are all through to the final bake sessions, where they will get to make and ice their biscuits next term. Isolda and Emma won the prize for the most effective designs. Well done to all, we look forward to judging the best biscuits next half term.

New Year Make-Away:

The whole school is getting healthy this year by swapping take-aways for the home made alternative. Students are making their favourite take away meals at home and sending in their photos; teachers are getting involved, too. The winning students will win cookery goodies, to keep them inspired.

DT Dept. Paper Aeroplane Challenge at the Arts University



On Tuesday 14th March our paper aeroplane finalists were invited to the Arts University in Bournemouth where they challenged the University students to a 'fly off'.

The finalists from FMS were: Keegan Holmes, Kimberley Melbourne, Harry Wilson and Alejandro Vera-Moyano - Year 8. Duncan Stewart and Callum Carpenter-Dall - Year 7. Taylor Grant, Maddy Holness and Emma Wilson - Year 6. Tasfia Rehman, Lilly Cooper, Alex Whitelaw, Josh Rowland, Jacob Upton and Oliver Butler - Year 5. Our challengers were theatre costume design student Ruth, photography students Rachael and Rosaline and Deano, the university host. The 'fly off' took place in the Universities Lecture Theatre. The first challenge was to see if their planes could fly from the top of the theatre to the bottom. Many did, with lots hitting the lecture theatre screen!

The competition was very fierce and the competitive edge showed in many.

All of the planes performed very well. We eventually got down to the final 4, Keegan, Taylor, Josh and Rachael who battled it out in a sudden death competition.

The overall winner was Josh Rowland. His plane performed consistently well and didn't let him down.

The pupils were rewarded with a Pizza lunch in the refectory and a tour of the campus by the Student Ambassadors. A really good morning enjoyed by all. Although a flying visit we had a great time and the pupils had a good glimpse of life at University. All of the pupils said that they would like to go to University after leaving school.

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March



World Book Day is an opportunity every year to celebrate books and reading, authors and illustrators. We marked the occasion with all tutor groups taking part in a quiz to test their knowledge and the winning tutor groups received prizes.

Well done to **5EH** (who also won the Roald Dahl Book Quiz in September), **6 EBS & 6MBS, 7PM and 8JW**.

There was also a 'Get Caught Reading' challenge for all pupils. Any pupils spotted reading during break or lunch times were given a raffle ticket. Those pupils who are lucky enough to have their ticket drawn, will each receive a brand-new book of their choice from a selection in the library.

A competition to design a bookmark for sale in the school stationery shop was launched too. Entry forms are available from English teachers and Mrs Shannon, our librarian. The closing date is Friday 24th March.

Red Nose Day



Friday 24th March - the children may wear mufti (red if possible) and donate £1 for Comic Relief.

Please - no permanent hair dyes, no offensive logos, no crop tops or high heels. Suitable clothing for school activities.

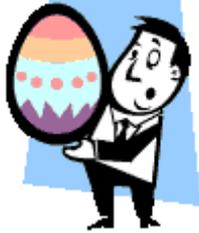
Thank you.

Can You Help?

Easter Raffle Prizes Please

Sadly FMS no longer have a PTA. The PTA used to fund many of the wonderful experiences your child had the chance to benefit from; like the plays. To enable the children to continue to benefit from these extra opportunities we still need money.

To help raise funds for the school we are hoping to run an Easter raffle. Donations of Easter eggs, sweets, toiletries or any new, unwanted gifts would be gratefully received. Donations can be sent into the office or



handed to the tutor during registration. A strip of raffle tickets will be sent home with each child – we would be grateful if you could send them back in with the back filled in and the money in an envelope. The draw will be made on Wednesday 5th April at the Talent Show.

Sponsors for Trophies still needed

At the end of the summer term we traditionally acknowledge the pupils in Year 8 who have performed really well.

There were originally two categories for each subject; progress and achievement. However we now wish to broaden the awards. There will now be three award categories for each subject area. These are:-

- * Academic achievement
- * Progress in the subject
- * Effort throughout the year in a subject

The new category is for effort and this is where we would like your help. The school would love to give each pupil who wins an award a trophy. This trophy is loaned to the pupil for the year and then returned. Sadly the cost of purchasing ten trophies is a drain on the school budget.

Could you or your business sponsor a trophy? So far we have received enough to purchase five trophies; we still need the money for 5 more.

A shield costs £15. The shield would be engraved with your family name or your company's name.

If you are unable to donate the full amount but would still like to help, any donation would be really appreciated.

If you or your company could help by purchasing a trophy please contact Mrs Baynham via the school office either by phone, 01202 876556 or by e-mail: office@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk

Alternatively send a cheque made payable to Ferndown Middle School to the office in an envelope marked 'Donation for Trophy'.

Rights Respecting School



On December 1st we were visited by two members of the Rights Respecting School team who came to assess us for the Level 2 award. During the morning, members of Pupil Voice and School Council conducted a tour which included talking to pupils and staff in the classrooms, they held a discussion with a selection of other pupils from across the year groups about their RRS experience and a group made up of staff, parents and governors were also interviewed.

After receiving the Level 2 award, we received some very positive feedback on their visit. They were particularly impressed with the following: our pupils being active in the community; compliments week, which helps children to feel valued and combats bullying; our School Charter which helps us to integrate many of the rights; our awards: Eco Silver Award and International School Award; the range of clubs which inspire and encourage our pupils to develop their wellbeing; the many opportunities we have to make our voices heard; the Growth-mindset which keeps our pupils feeling positive towards their learning; the variety of engaging displays around the school building.

We are extremely proud to have been given the RRS Level 2 award after all the hard work pupils and staff put in to preparing for the visit.

Written by members of Pupil Voice.

Attendance



We would like to thank all the parents who ensure their children are in school, and on time, every day. We understand children can become unwell and therefore cannot always be at school; we appreciate you calling to inform us when this happens.

If your child's attendance falls below 90% then you may be asked to attend a meeting with our Pastoral Officer, Christine Hurst, where she will discuss any concerns we have regarding your child's poor attendance.

I will not be authorising holidays under the guidance I have received from the local authority. The government expects a child's attendance to be above 95%. If a child's attendance falls below 90% they will be considered to be a persistent absentee. I am also obliged to remind you that attendance to school is a legal requirement for all children. Parents run the risk of prosecution if they fail to ensure their child's attendance at school.

Trip Money

The final instalment for the Project Week trips is now due. If you haven't already paid in full or have another arrangement with the school, please send the money in to the office asap. Thank you.

Sports News

Netball

Year 8 PEDSSA Cup

The Year 8 netball team competed in the PEDSSA Netball tournament. It was a hugely successful afternoon for the team who finished 2nd in their group after winning against Parkstone and St Edwards and drawing against Allenbourn and Broadstone. This success led them to the semi-finals where they faced Dumpton. Unfortunately, the girls lost in this extremely tough game, however, this led them to a final match against Allenbourn for third place. Despite losing to Allenbourn, the girls finished 4th out of 10 schools, just one place off earning a place in the County finals competition. This really was a huge achievement for the team, who have come a long way since they finished 9th in the Year 7 netball PEDSSA tournament. It has been a joy to see them progress over the course of the season and they should be extremely proud of their achievements. Well done girls!

Year 8 PEDSSA League

The Year 8 netball team played their final two league games of the season. They faced Poole High School who they convincingly beat 20 -1. The girls put on an outstanding display, demonstrating their experience and determination. Next, they played Allenbourn Middle, again winning convincingly with 10 goals to 1. This was a fantastic way to end the league campaign and highlighted how able the girls are. A special mention must go to our shooters, Alice and Chloe, who managed to score a staggering 30 goals between them in just one afternoon. Well done team!

The Year 7 netball team stormed to a stunning 7-0 league win against Broadstone Middle School. The girls dominated from the very first whistle, taking on board the advice they were given and executing it in style. A special mention must go to Leah who scored all 7 goals! Well done girls, a real achievement!

Football - Year 6 Boys County Cup Quarter Final v Dorchester Middle

The Year 6 Boys played Dorchester in the Dorset Cup Quarter Final. We took the lead early on with a super strike from Jack from the edge of the box following great build up play from Josh, George and Callum. We had Harry in goal to thank for keeping it 1-0 where he made a triple save. Solid defending from Toby, Finn, Ethan and Jake to help us through to half time. In the second half Will slotted in and gave us the cushion of a two goal lead. Freddie and Alex added stable support to our team in the second half and eventually we ran out 2-1 winners. Excellent work lads especially in the moments where we had to dig deep for the victory.

Years 7 & 8 PEDSSA Cup v Cranborne

The Year 8 boys played Cranborne in the 11 aside PEDSSA Cup Match. Some of the lads were experiencing 11-aside football for the first time. Kristian and Alfie were excellent throughout and really stepped up to the mark from our Year 7 Team. Connor was a confident leader throughout and kept encouraging until the very end. Unfortunately we conceded some late goals to lose the match but the boys should take heart with their grit and determination.

Year 7 v Broadstone

In an excellent match our boys played Broadstone. Luke produced superb energy and skill on the left wing; Jose was making some courageous sliding tackles; Jonathon was heroic in goal and Charlie worked hard in midfield and defence. Harry scored our goal in a 3-1 defeat but the boys all played their part in an enjoyable.

Year 7 Boys PEDSSA Cup v Lytchett Minster

We had an extremely difficult Quarter Final away on the 3G surface at Lytchett and found ourselves 1-0 down early on. The boys played with assured confidence and Tyler chased the goalkeeper down and slotted in a second just before half time. We continued with this form and Tyler soon scored his hat trick and Jude scored to give us a deserved 4-1 victory and a semi-final place.

Year 5 Boys Football Festival Storm Doris did not prevent our Year 5 Boys (ably assisted by 3 girls) take part in the annual football festival hosted and organised here at Ferndown Middle School. We welcomed St Ives, St Michaels, Emmanuel and Allenbourn to windy Ferndown. I am delighted that we had an amazing four teams that represented our school. All pupils were an absolute credit to themselves and our school where they behaved impeccably and played football in the correct spirit. There was endless excitement where there were superb saves; skilful dribbling with the ball; last ditch tackles and endless goals. I would like to thank our magnificent Year 8 Sports Leaders who officiated and managed each team with assured confidence. Finally it was evident that the Year 5 pupils had an enjoyable afternoon playing football for the school team; well played to all.



Year 5 Girls Football Festival

We had 15 girls from Year 5 representing Ferndown Middle in two teams in the Football Festival we host each year and they did not disappoint with their performance. We were joined by Allenbourn, St Michaels, St Josephs and Emmanuel in a cold and wet afternoon of fantastic football. I was delighted by the performance of the girls during the afternoon and it made me proud to watch their efforts. Throughout the afternoon there were a vast amount of memorable moments which certainly shows the potential to continue with our long list of successful girls teams. Our Sports Leaders from Year 8 were very professional in their approach and were a credit to themselves and our school. Finally if any girls are interested in joining a local club then please see Mr Higgins for details.



Year 8 Girls AFC Bournemouth Schools Premier League Trophy

We entered the Premier League Football Trophy where the winners got the chance to represent AFC Bournemouth in the Premier League Schools Trophy at Stamford Bridge. It was an exciting prospect and the girls were definitely up for the challenge. We were drawn in a difficult group with BSG, Highcliffe and Carter. We had a difficult match to start against a very good BSG and lost that one. In our second match we drew 0-0 with Highcliffe. Finally we had to win 6-0 in our last match to have a chance of qualifying and they certainly made a valiant effort to succeed in this task. We won this match 5-0 with goals from Lilli (2), Molly (2) and Jenny. Faye made great saves in all matches; Kim was strong in defence; Chloe worked hard on the wing and Tegan was terrific in leading the team in all matches. It was an excellent effort girls!

Year 6 v St Michaels and Allenbourn

We hosted St Michaels and Allenbourn in a triangular fixture where all teams played each other. We drew 1-1 against St Michaels and Harley scored a great goal. We lost 1-0 against Allenbourn. Taylor made some brave saves in goal throughout the afternoon, Finn was excellent in midfield making some good passes and Aidan worked tirelessly for the team.



Year 6 Boys AFC Bournemouth Schools Premier League Trophy

It was the turn of the Year 6 Boys to attempt to get to Chelsea's home ground of Stamford Bridge to represent AFC Bournemouth in The Premier League Trophy. We were drawn in an extremely tough group with St Katharine's, Elm Academy and Winton. Our first match was a tense 0-0 draw with Winton, great saves from Freddie and calm defending from Finn, Ethan and Toby kept us in the match. We defeated Elm Academy 7-0; Jake, Jack and Tyler scored the goals. Unfortunately we lost against St Katharine's 1-0. The boys should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Years 7 & 8 Girls PEDSSA Cup v Cranborne

The girls were triumphant against Cranborne where we won 7-0. In the first half they raced into a 4 goal lead with 2 goals from Hannah and one each from both of the Tegans. In the second half we were faster to the ball and that resulted in some excellent play. Hannah played extremely well and every 5 minutes seemed to be facing another bruising challenge! I must congratulate the girls for their strong defensive play and some superb passing.

Swimming

Years 7 & 8 Swimming Gala at QE

The pupils enjoyed an excellent afternoon's swimming at QE where we competed against Lytchett, Allenbourn and St Michaels. The pupils had some excellent races and in particular the last relay where we slowly clawed our way from 4th to first with some excellent work from Hayden. All pupils produced strong performances and the delight on the pupils' faces was evident at the end of the gala. Overall we finished second; excellent work swimmers!